

H I S T O R Y
of
A M E S
P A R K
&
R E C R E A T I O N
S Y S T E M



Written, August, 1975

Updated, April, 1978



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PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION

The Ames Parks and Recreation Commission became official on July 1, 1975, as an advisory and policy body of public citizens to the Department of Parks and Recreation. Members of this five-person commission are appointed by the mayor and approved by the City Council for rotating three-year terms.

The primary duties of this commission are to develop and oversee plans, policies, procedures, and programs for City parks, swimming pools, and other recreational facilities and activities undertaken by or on behalf of the City of Ames.

At the first meeting of this Parks and Recreation Commission on July 11, 1975, lots were drawn for the length of each member's first term and election of officers was held with the following results:

Marilyn Hawthorne, President	1-year term
George Clark, Jr., Vice-President	2-year term
Julia Anderson, Secretary	2-year term
Rita Riis	3-year term
Oliver Knott	3-year term

Parks and Recreation Commission Members

Marilyn Hawthorne	1975 - 1979
George Clark, Jr.	1975 - 1977
Julia Anderson	1975 - 1977
Rita Riis	1975 - 1978
Oliver Knott	1975 - 1978
John Russo	1977 - 1980
Tom Madden	1977 - 1980
Peg Barnett	1978 - 1981
David Fleming	1978 - 1981

AMES PUBLIC LIBRARY
AMES, IOWA

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Park Board

The Park Board was established on March 26, 1926 by vote of the people and established in a city ordinance. The members of the first board were appointed and were L. B. Spinney, J. Galen Tilden, and C. R. Jones. In 1928 the first vote was taken for duly elected Park Board members. Previously to this, in 1890 a Parks Committee was established. In 1900 the first Park Committee of Council was appointed under Mayor Thomas Thompson. In 1909 the park committee was made up of the mayor, one councilman, and a property owner. Dr. J. C. Copesteke was the first Park Commissioner.

The three member board of Park Commissioners is an elective body which controls the acquisition and maintenance of the City Park system. The Commission is also responsible for the long-range planning for future park areas. Two of the three commissioners must be a resident of Washington or Franklin township (one from each). Commissioners are elected for a term of six years and it takes two members to constitute a quorum.

Oliver Knott	1968-1975
George Clark, Jr.	1970-1975
Kenneth Lane	1972-1975
Lloyd S. Kurtz	1952-1969
Ross Curtis	1954-1971
Clayton Sutherland	1961-1967
S. A. Knapp	1932-1961
Charles Chase	1937-1953
R. R. Rothacker	1944-1951
Ray Donels	1939-1943
C. E. Dragoun	1928-1938
L. B. Spinney	1928-1936
M. L. Hutton	1928-1931
Gale Tilden	1926-1927
C. R. Jones	1926-1927

Recreation Commission

Community recreation in Ames began in the later 1920's.

The early programs were sponsored by various organizations. By 1938 the need for a municipal recreation program was recognized and the citizens voted to establish the Playground Commission and to tax themselves for a municipally operated recreation program. The Playground Commission (Recreation Commission) was appointed by the mayor.

Kenneth Wells held the position of athletic director of the Ames Schools and as director of the summer recreation program from 1940-1964. He left to take an I.S.E.A. position.

George Gammel became the next recreation director of Ames and was employed 3/4's time for recreation work and 1/4 time by the schools. (He was to assist with adult education programs).

Bart Johnston became the Recreation Director early in 1970. Johnston then secured two specialists for the department, Roy Fielding for the Aquatics program and Ed Jones for the Recreation programs.

Dr. Charles Gilbert	1972-1974	Merlin Anderson	1960
Dr. William Buck	1969-1975	Bob Muirhull	1956-1960
Charles Hutchcroft	1969-1974	Ray Donels	1938-1959
Marilyn Hawthorne	1974-1975	Kathleen Vanderlinden	1938-1956
Rita Riis	1974-1975	Harry R. McPhail	1951-1955
Wendell Allen	1951-1968	Steven Watkins	1946-1950
A. H. Munn	1962-1969	Bob McCullough	1948-1950
Kate Mitchell	1938-1969	Mrs. Robley Winfrey	1946-1947
Bob Best	1961-1969	Prof. E. S. Baird	1939-1947
Selwyn Dale	1961-1969	M. F. Nodland	1945-1946
Mrs. Pat Bliss	1968-1969	Mrs. R. J. DeLaHunt	1938-1945
C. Herbert Adams	1968	Keith Rushing	1945
Dr. John Doran	1968-1969	Mrs. Ruth Boyer	1944-1945
J. D. Armstrong	1968-1969	Al Green	1941-1945
Ray Cunningham	1938-1967	Ray VanMeter	1940-1944
Paul Taff	1938-1967	Leland Benz	1944
Mrs. Carl Schach	1947-1967	Don Reynolds	1938-1940
Walter Hetzel	1955-1967	N. J. Brentnall	1938-1940
Ted Kooser	1949-1961	Wayne Cupps	1938

AMES MUNICIPAL BAND

The Ames Municipal band, supported by a tax levy, was created in 1924, but a band has existed here since shortly after the incorporation of the town in 1870.

The first band was organized under the guidance of David N. Maxwell. The entire band had instruments of the "bell up" type, including the cornets. In the beginning, there were no clarinets or trombones, but these were introduced a little later. Since 1920 the following men have directed the Ames band, in the order of direction they are: Ed Chenette, George Bortner, Professor Lamb, Jean Chenette, D. S. Jeffers, A. R. Lauer, Professor Stearms, Charles Bushman, Clate Chenette, Oscar Hatch Hawley, Richard D. Day, Milton Trexel, and currently Homer Gartz.

The players were volunteers in the early days and were held together by their love of music and the pleasure of playing. The band was also made up of boys called the "band boys." In these early days, before the band tax, the band drew its support from booster clubs, and commercial and civic organizations. Out-of-town concerts and various lodge affairs helped in paying expenses. One of the first public appearances was made at Jefferson.

In 1925 the band was incorporated, and has been supported by a tax levy each year since that time.

A ladies band was once organized by Dr. Maxwell, and that group climaxed its career by giving a concert in the town opera house, now occupied by O'Neil Dairy Company's plant.

In 1936, the Band Shell was built in Band Shell Park, by the W.P.A. to provide employment for Ames laborers. The Band Shell was contracted at a cost of \$12,000 with such organizations as the Ames Women's Club, Kiwanis, Rotary, Legion, and Jaycees promoting it.

BAND SHELL PARK

Located at 6th & Duff Avenue

2.6 acres

This one block square area was given to the City of Ames in 1882 by Blair & Company for park purposes only. It was named Band Shell Park and was the first park in Ames. The park was acquired by a dedication ceremony. All the city had to do was maintain the park.

Today, the Park Commission has assumed the responsibility for maintenance, supervision, and development of the open area surrounding it. The Park Commission has resisted any further development in this park so that it may stay as an open space area and in addition have band concerts and be a public meeting ground.

Major Renovation Work:

- 1886 Moved to put fence around the park
- 1892 First park work: mulching of trees in the City Park. (Known as City Park at that time because it was the only one.)
- 1899 "Hitching posts around the City Park to be set out so as to not endanger the trees." (The horses ate the bark from them!) Trees were also planted.
- 1906 Brick wall put along west side of Duff by City Park.
- 1907 Council allowed \$100.00 to care for City Park.
- 1908 Civic Improvement Society, organized by the women of Ames, authorized to have trees trimmed in City Park and the Council would pay.
- 1934 Landscape Architecture Department at I.S.U. landscaped the city park.
- 1936 The Band Shell was built as a W.P.A. project at a cost of \$12,000.

Other Facilities:

- 5 tables
- 1 fireplace
- 1 water foundation

Benches are brought in for band concerts.

BROOKSIDE PARK

Located at 6th & Brookridge

82 acres

Brookside is the most centralized of all the Ames parks. The Park Commission purchased 17 acres in 1925 for \$3,600.00. Maxwell Park was the original name for the Brookside area. The park was later named Brookside by J. J. Stevens, G. D. Rowe, R. H. McCarthy, & C. G. Lee.

*Maxwell
Park was
north part
of Cemetery*

The Park Commission leased 65 acres west of the acquired land in 1951, from Iowa State University. This lease has been revamped on several occasions, and now is leased for a 20-year period which is from March 1, 1970 to March 1, 1990. These two areas were known as East Brookside and West Brookside, but today it is known simply as Brookside Park.

Facilities:

- 196 Picnic tables
- 22 Fireplaces
- 3 Shelters
- 3 Bleachers
- 4 Softball diamonds
- 1 Hardball diamond with lights
- 9 Water fountains
- 1 Horseshoe court
- 89 4-foot benches
- 24 8-foot benches
- 2 Flag poles
- 6 Sand boxes
- 1 Wading pool (1932)
- 1 Tennis court
- 1 Storage & shelter at tennis court

Facilities (continued):

- 1 Concession stand
- 1 Rest room
- 5 Volleyball courts
- 1 Basketball court

Play Equipment includes:

- 2 Horse swings
- 2 Belt swings
- 1 Tiny-tot swing
- 2 Swinging gates
- 3 Merry-go-rounds
- 1 Elephant slide
- 1 Tiny-tot hobby horse
- 2 Jungle jims
- 3 Slides

Renovation Work:

1928	Suspension Bridge	\$ 1,631.00
1939	Quonset storage 24 x 36	2,895.00
	Rest rooms	4,684.00
	Grading west side and ball field	900.00
1953	Tennis courts and skating area	25,000.00
	Chain link fence	2,429.00
1957	Shuffle Board	900.00
1959	Sewer line	2,250.00
1961	Outside lighting	2,820.00
1962	Storage building at diamond	734.00
	Bleachers, 10 rows, 42' long	1,130.00

Renovation work (continued):

Lighted Baseball Diamond

1962	Towers & lights	\$ 25,171.88 (Pd. by Rec. Comm.)
1963	Chain Link Fence	2,912.90
1963	Bleachers, 10 row, 42' long	1,130.00
1964	Water line under Squaw Creek	704.00
1965	Bleachers (high school)	500.00
1966	one 16' baseball backstop (west side)	476.00
1966	James Thompson & Sons, Shelter 24' x 52'	4,694.00
1966	Wire & cable for scoreboard	366.48
1966	-Fair Play Scoreboard Company	720.00
1966	Best Electric-scoreboard material	14.55
1967	Cook Construction Company, rock for trails	249.20
1968	Farber Electronic Sound (lighting, speakers)	75.75
1969	Lighting repair-City of Ames	46.02
1969	Concession stand-installed 2 ventilator louvers	73.35
1976	Renovation of tennis courts, basketball courts and and additional fencing	50,000.00 (estimated)

CARR PARK

Located on Carr Drive

4.5 acres

This area north of the Carr swimming pool was leased December 1, 1965 on a yearly basis for \$1.00 a year. It was leased from Mrs. R. E. Carr on the premises that the land would be used as a public park and playground for the benefit of the residents of Ames. If the commission ceased to properly maintain the park for public use, or used the area for any other purpose besides a park, Mrs. R. E. Carr could terminate the lease by giving 90 days written notice.

The entrance to this park area is chained under lock.

Facilities:

- 2 Picnic tables
- 2 Fireplaces
- 2 Sandboxes

Play Equipment:

- 1 Horse swing
- 1 Merry-go-round
- 1 Swinging gate
- 1 Slide

EMMA McCARTHY LEE

Located on Ross Road

38.0 acres

This area was donated by Judge Lee, a prominent citizen of Ames, in memory of his wife Emma McCarthy Lee, in 1949. The McCarthy's were some of the original founding fathers of the City of Ames. Access to the park has been a problem, but in the future the Park Commission hopes to add more roads into the area and possibly gain access of land to the west as well.

The park is largely wooded and also must serve a large area of people on the west side of Ames.

Renovation work:

1949	Survey, 8 acres	\$	803.00	
1950	Architect fees		783.00	
1956	Sanitary Sewer Assessment		1,136.00	
1975	Grading & leveling valley		4,245.00	
1958	Paving Ross Road		10,880.00	
1958	Tiling and draining valley		1,691.00	
1959	Rest room & sewer line		15,750.00	
1959	Michigan Street assessment		1,186.00	
1962	Shelter house		3,793.00	
1963	Water line and fountain at shelter		1,677.00	
1963	Outside lighting & wiring shelter		1,490.00	
1964	Tennis & skating courts (pd. by Rec. Comm.)	33,467.00	contract	
		1,790.00	plumbing	
		2,230.00	fence	
			lighting	
1964	Softball backstop		290.00	

Renovation work (continued):

1965	Water fountain at tennis court	\$ 186.00
1966	Thompson & Sons shelter at skating rink	671.00
1975	YCC constructed an obstacle course	3,000.00 (estimated)

Facilities:

61	Picnic tables
7	Fireplaces
	Tennis courts
1	Rest room
3	Basketball goals
2	Softball diamonds
1	Flag pole
5	Water fountains
6	8-foot benches
1	Storage & shelter at tennis court
1	Open shelter
2	Volleyball courts
3	Sandboxes

Play equipment:

2	Belt swings
1	Horse swing
2	Merry-go-rounds
2	Slides
2	Swinging gates
1	Jungle jim
1	Horseshoe court

Fourteenth & Duff Avenue Park

Located at 14th & Duff

.5 acre

This small neighborhood park was acquired in 1942 through gift and purchase. Harold Giebelstein spearheaded the collection of funds in the neighborhood to pay for part of the park. They collected a total of \$75.00 and the Park Commission paid an additional \$300.00 for the area. The park was unofficially called "Giebelstein Park", but now has the official name of Duff Park. This neighborhood park has play equipment for children.

Major Renovation:

1966	14th Street Parking	\$1,616.82
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Facilities:

1	Table
1	Pony Swing
1	Belt Swing
1	Slide
1	Merry-go-round
1	Basketball Court
1	Small ball diamond
1	Swinging gate
1	Backhoe digger

FRANKLIN PARK

Located on South Franklin

4.5 acres

This area was originally acquired by the federal government for use as a forestry and conservation corps camp in the early 1930's and after it had served its purpose, it was acquired by Iowa State University as a federal grant for \$100.00. The university used it as a farm service headquarters storing all their equipment for operating of the university farms and as a repair headquarters. The farm service department moved to another location on Beach Avenue and left the tract of land vacant. The Park Commission, after discussing the matter with neighbors around the area, suggested the circulation of a petition. The petition was presented to the City Council, and as a result a lease was formed with the University on a \$1.00 a year basis from March 1, 1960 to March 1, 1970. Another lease was acquired from the university for a 20-year period from March 1, 1970 to March 1, 1990. At some future time it is recommended that the Park Commission try to acquire this tract of land from the University.

Renovation Work:

1960	Clearing foundations and Grading	\$810.34
1962	Repaired Shed for Warehouse Use	173.45
1964	Purchase of rock, 26.4 tons	59.40
1964	Roof repairs of warehouse	95.51

Facilities:

8	Picnic tables
1	Fireplace
1	Basketball court

Facilities (continued):

- 1 Softball diamond
- 1 Horseshoe court
- 2 Sand boxes

Play Equipment:

- 1 Belt swing
- 1 Horse swing
- 1 Jack & Jill
- 1 Merry-go-round
- 1 Swinging gate

GUNDER WOODS

57.5 acres

This was purchased in 1965 from the Gunder heirs for \$36,000. The area provides a half-mile of river frontage and it is mainly in virgin timber. This woody area connects the Logsdon and Carr area with Inis Grove Park, which is part of the outdoor recreation plan.

Homewood Golf Course

In 1950 the Homewood Golf Course and nearby area was offered to the city with the Planning Commission's approval. The Park Board said a bond issue would be needed. In May 1951, Hollis Nordyke, of the Greater Ames Committee, asked approval for the purchase of Homewood Golf Course for \$60,000, subject to citizen vote. In 1951 a special election was called on to vote on spending \$70,000 for 135 acres of land for recreational use. This would cost .5 mill annually. Homewood Golf Course failed to pass.

On November 7, 1967, another special election was held and 81% of the voters endorsed the purchase of Homewood Golf Course and the sale of general obligation bonds in the amount of \$207,000 to pay for it.

The Ames Park Board took over management of the course in 1971. Mr. & Mrs. Gerald Ross were hired to manage the property and the pro shop, under the direction of Bartley Johnston, Director of Parks and Recreation.

Homewood is a 9-hole course and has a pro-shop.

Major Capital Improvements:

1968	Hugo Jelden, tiling	180.25
1969	C & M Excavating, tiling	623.01
	"", grading new entrance & parking lot	655.85
	Cooper & Sons, Construction of new green	664.01
	City Plumbing & Heating	3,306.79
	Ames Plumbing, Inc.	3,820.00

Major Capital Improvements (cont.)

1969	R. E. Knosby, Co., Moving house to Home-wood	\$2,000.00
	James Thompson & Sons, construction of footings & masonry walls-pro shop	4,985.12
	D. K. Rippel, L.A. & Planner, No. 2 green detail, Master Plan, & consultation fees	1,800.00 (approx.)
1977	Triangle Fraternity designed and provided labor for a new footbridge.	5,000.00 (approx.)

HUTCHISON PARK

Located at Toronto & Delaware

1.0 acre

In 1963 a small tract of land, 60 by 100 feet, located in the Ontario vicinity was acquired by the Park Commission. This land was later traded for a much larger area next to the small tract of land. Later at a public auction, the Park Commission acquired the Hank Truesdall Estate on the south side of land previously held.

This lot serves as a small children's playground area and supplements the larger area located at Sawyer School where older children can play football and baseball.

Facilities:

- 2 Picnic tables
- 1 Fireplace
- 1 Basketball court

Play Equipment:

- 1 Horse swing
- 1 Merry-go-round
- 1 Slide
- 1 Swinging gate

Renovation Work:

1964	Grading and filling	\$ 104.00
	Survey-Ames Engineering	51.50
1965	Play equipment	
1966	Sanitary Sewer assessment	581.68
1967	Down Payment-Truesdall Lot #7, Ontario	560.00
1969	Truesdall Estate-balance on contract paid	2,240.00

Renovation Work (continued):

1969	Grading Truesdall lot & removing two houses	\$ 486.00
1969	C & M Excavating Company	
1969	Title Exam	42.30

INIS GROVE

Located at 24th & Duff

45 acres

This park was acquired by gift in 1949 from Mr. Walter Grove, and because of lack of access it took sometime before development began. He donated the park in memory of his wife. When Mr. Grove donated Inis Grove Park, he left a small area to the north, called "Camp Canwita," to the Campfire girls of Ames. This area is the property of the Park Commission, but the campfire girls are to have use of the area as long as they desire and will maintain it. At such time they no longer have a need for it or do not maintain it satisfactorily, it is to revert back to the Ames Park Commission.

Inis Grove Park is one of the key links between River Valley Park, Homewood Recreation Area, and further development to the north.

Renovation Work:

1953	Grading open area	\$4,952.00
1953	Drilling well and water system	2,200.00
1953	Tiling and draining open area	744.00
1953	Bridge across ravine	2,385.00
1954	Rest room and filter bed	12,940.00
1954	Assessment for paving 24th street	4,940.00
1955	Moving and rebuilding cabin	2,300.00
1958	Baseball backstop, S. W.	470.00
1958	Football goal posts	320.00
1958	Softball backstop	209.00
1961	West open shelter	3,532.00
1963	Outside lighting	1,650.00

Renovation Work (continued):

1965 Water line to tennis court \$ 2,338.00

1965 Tennis court & skating area 31,178.00 construction
2,344.00 plumbing
2,672.00 fence

1965 Lighting courts, labor & light material 7,591.00

1966 One, 20' baseball backstop 550.00

1966 Shelter at skating rink, Thompson & Son 671.00

1966 Part. street assessment, Duff Ave.-Woolsoncroft 4,422.30

1967 Phil Coy & Sons, ½ sh.-Broadmore storm sewer 536.65

1967 Bliss Construction Company-Broadmore storm sewer 536.65

1969 C & M Construction-grading lot Camp Canwita 236.25

Facilities:

79 Picnic tables

11 Fireplaces

16 8-foot benches

2 4-foot benches

1 Bleacher

Hard ball diamonds

2 Softball diamonds

1 Rest room

3 Water fountains

2 Volleyball courts

1 Foot bridge

1 Flag pole

Frontierland facilities:

1 Gold mine

1 Covered wagon

1 tepee

Paid by
Park Comm.

Frontierland facilities (continued):

- 1 Fort
- Tennic courts
- 3 Sandboxes
- 1 Belt swing
- 1 Horse swing
- 2 slides
- 2 Merry-go-rounds
- 2 Swinging gates
- 1 Jungle jim
- 2 Horseshoe courts
- 1 Storage & shelter at tennis court

LOGSDON 100-FOOT STRIP
(RIVER VALLEY PARK)

5.33 acres

This is part of the River Valley Park system but was the last area acquired on the east side of the Skunk River. It's purpose was to provide access, a roadway, and parking lot outside the native timbered area. This tract provided access to the open play field of 19 acres purchased from Mrs. Alpha Carr.

This tract was purchased for \$3,199.80 in 1968.

MCDONALD WOODS

Located on Izaak Walton Road

9 acres

For many years this area was a Boy Scout area under the management of the Silver Beavers, a branch of the Boy Scout organization. Pressure by the Tall Corn Council of Central Iowa to abandon the area as a local enterprise succeeded, and the area was turned over to the Forestry Department of Iowa State University as a memorial to Professor G. B. McDonald, one of the community's outstanding citizens. The Forestry department managed it for a few years anticipating it could be maintained with the help of students and the Forestry Club, but this proved to be unsuccessful. At this point, the Park Commission approached the University and the Forestry Department and was able to lease the area to tie it in with the River Valley Park system and also continue to preserve it as a memorial to Professor G. B. McDonald. It is hoped that in the future this land could be firmly acquired as a permanent part of the Park System.

This area was leased from Iowa State University from September 1, 1967 to September 1, 1987, for a 20-year period.

Facilities:

- 2 Picnic tables
- 2 Fireplaces

MOORE PARK

Located on South Beach

2.0 acres

This area was a gift to the Park Commission from John and Opal Moore in 1964. As early as 1957, John Moore indicated his plan to set aside an area as a park in what is known as Moore Development in the Country Club Heights Addition. The Park Commission assumed a special assessment for a storm cellar when acquiring this tract which cost \$1,853.00.

Facilities:

- 1 Picnic table
- 1 Basketball goal
- 1 Softball diamond
- 2 Sandboxes

Play Equipment:

- 1 Horse swing
- 1 Merry-go-round
- 1 Swinging gate

Renovation Work:

1964	Hargo Guden Tiling	\$ 427.18
1964	Assessment for storm sewer	1,853.25
1966	Play equipment	906.38
1966	Softball back stop	275.00
1967	John and Opal Moore-reimbursement for special assessment against Moore Park	2,180.21
1969	James Thompson, sidewalk from Gaskill	1,513.10

Nutty Woods

24.5 acres

This was purchased for \$12,700 in 1966 from the Nutty heirs, thus enlarging the River Valley Park System. Acquisition of this tract of land gave the City of Ames control of all the land on the east side adjacent to the Skunk River to and including the Logsdon tract. The park has approximately two miles of trails.

In 1975 a request by the Ames Town and Country Saddle Club to build a horse arena in the South meadow of this area for Club and other equestrian activities was granted by the Parks and Recreation Commission.

Facilities:

- 4 Fireplaces
- 4 Tables
- 1 Horse Arena

O'NEIL PARK

Lo cated at 3rd and Oak

2.5 acres

This area comprises a one block square area given to the City of Ames in 1941 by Henry O'Neil and his brother Clem O'Neil. Over the years this area has been used extensively by members of the Highway Commission and particularly by St. Cecilia School who have used it as a football and athletic ground area because of the limitations of available space near the school. For this reason, the central portion of the park has been left as open space and playground equipment and other facilities have been put near the edges to provide recreation for the children in this community.

Facilities:

- 7 Picnic tables
- 1 Fireplace
- 1 Horseshoe court
- 1 Basketball goal
- 2 Ball diamonds
- 1 Water fountain
- 1 Sandbox
- 4 8-foot benches
- 1 4-foot bench

Play Equipment:

- 1 Horse Swing
- 1 Belt Swing
- 1 Merry-go-round
- 1 Slide

OVERLAND PARK

This park consists of a narrow river frontage area along Skunk River which is located several hundred feet north of Camp Can-wita and Inis Grove Park. Since this area fits in with the general projections and plans of River Valley Park, the Commission contacted Mr. Overland and suggested this area be given to the Park Commission and made a part of the River Valley system.

The tract of land was sold to the City of Ames in 1969 by Orman and Helen Overland, in consideration of the sum of one dollar.

PARKVIEW PARK

Located at Parkview Heights Addition

5.21 acres

This area was acquired in 1967 as a gift from three contractors namely: Friedrich and Sons, Hunziker and Furman, and Buck Construction Company. In the agreement, it was understood that this area was designated as a gift of land to the Park Commission, but there are other considerations the Commission agreed to pay to the developers. This was \$1,000 an acre to apply toward costs of utilities, streets, etc., which would be available to the Commission for use in this area.

This area and concept was developed with the assistance of Mr. Gilson, who at the time was director of the Planning Commission, and the members of the Ames Planning Commission in cooperation with the City Council, and the three developers.

Renovation Work:

1968	VanVoorhis-storm sewer	\$ 898.36
1968	C & M storm sewer	165.92
1968	C & M grading 4.36 acres	912.25
1968	Hugo Jelden-tiling	317.95
1968	Hunziker, Buck, & Friedrich; Lot 24-4.36 acres	4,360.00
1968	Hunziker & Furman, concrete entrance	212.92
1968	Jerry Jones, attorney	25.00
1968	Hunziker, Buck, Friedrich-payment for utilities and title	560.00
1969	Grading walkway & drive-C & M Ex. Co.	86.63
1969	Grading lot-C & M Ex. Co.	85.38
1969	Ames Sodding-Sod on part of access ways	270.00
1969	VanVoorhis Plumbing-water foundations	

Renovation Work (continued):

1969	5 pieces play equipment	\$1,723.18
1969	Sidewalks & driveway-James Thompson & Sons	2,000.00 Estimate

Facilities:

1	Fiberglass table
1	Fireplace
2	Sandboxes
1	Water Fountain

Play Equipment:

1	Horse swing
1	Belt Swing
1	Slide
1	Merry-go-round
1	Swinging gate

RAILROAD PARK

Located on South State Street

27 acres

In 1965 it was learned that the Fort Dodge-Des Moines and Southern Railway would cease active operation and abandon its right-of-way through Ames. The Park Commission contacted their representatives in Boone to inquire what would be done with this right-of-way and the matter was followed up from that time until 1967, when negotiations took place for the purchase of 10.5 acres.

By 1967 all the rails and material had been salvaged from the railroad and it was the intent of the company to salvage the trestles which are now part of Railway Park. In order to save these trestles for convenient crossing over the ravines, the Commission approached the City Council about the possibility of paying a higher price per acre and preserving these as a part of the park system. The City Manager, Gene Castner, approved it and the City Attorney visited officials in Boone, Iowa, and negotiated the transaction.

Following acquisition, the Commission installed protective rails on the wood trestles and cleaned up around the area which is identified as Zumwalt Station. This station was a car siding for loading of livestock and unloading of feed for the University farms. The name was retained because of its association with the railroad company and the area around it was set up as a parking lot and a picnic area for public use.

This railroad right-of-way opened up possibilities for two additional tracts of land. In 1968 8½ acres became available from Keith Larson. This tract lies adjacent to the railway and was a rolling timbered area. Posts were put in around this tract to publicly establish the lines of the area.

Railroad Park (continued)

This tract of land was acquired for \$4,700.00.

When it was determined that the I.S.U. Agronomy Farm would be abandoned and established as a livestock science and industry farm, the Park Commission talked to authorities at the University about the possibility of leasing this timber tract. This tract has been allowed to lie in a natural state for 50 years or more. This area is a bird haven and has lots of wild flowers.

In the summer of 1969 further discussions led to a commitment with the university to lease this area to the Park Commission for \$1.00 per year under certain terms and conditions. On September 15, 1969 a lease was dated and this tract was added to the Railway Park system. In March of 1970, a 20-year lease was established from the university for this tract. This tract is approximately six acres.

Facilities:

- Picnic tables
- 1 Fireplace
- 1 Block building
- 1 Train Engine Play Apparatus & Track

RIVER VALLEY PARK

Loacted on 13th Street

The development of the River Valley Park system began in 1963 with the acquisition of 60 acres from Fred Logsdon for \$35,000.00. In 1964 further acquisition was from Mrs. Alpha Carr, which consisted of 18.5 acres for \$10,000.00. In 1965 57.5 acres were acquired from the Gunder heirs for \$36,000.00. Also in 1965 an additional 24.5 acres were acquired from Mrs. Alpha Carr for \$12,700.00.

Renovation Work:

1960	Nutty Timber-option payment to Nutty heirs	\$ 100.00
1964	Clearing foundations	288.00
1964	Grading & leveling 20 acres	1,662.88
1964	Softball back stop and wings	1,353.00
1964	Softball installation of lights	1,432.66
1964	Moving poles for lights for softball	429.20
1964	Stone for Roadway	460.75
1964	Water & Sewer line to restroom	1,158.00
1965	Balance of fence	1,615.00
1965	½ cost of abstracting	166.25
1965	Restroom contract	15,911.00
1965	Architect for restroom contract	1,272.88
1965	Survey of Carr land	180.50
1965	Story County Abstract Co.-Carr land contract	49.00
1965	High school bleachers	500.00
1966	2" water line to skating area 241	1,562.33
1966	two 16' baseball backstop	952.00

1966	Balance of water line & fountain at ball field	\$ 2,020.29
1966	Replacing lights in ballfield	386.40
1966	6 luminaire pole lights	1,600.00
1966	James Thompson shelter for skating	960.02
1966	R. G. Pasley for Gunder heirs (options)	700.00
1966	R. G. Pasley for Gunder heirs (down payment)	3,000.00
1967	Story County Abstract Company final abstract (Gunder heirs)	26.00
1967	Pay F. L. B. lien on 24.5 acres	5,628.61
1967	Balance to John E. Nutty, Agent for Nutty heirs	4,431.39
1967	Des Moines Steel-baseball backstop	526.00
1967	Clark & Clark Atty. fees & recording-Nutty Purchase	27.00
1967	Cook Construction rock for trails	1,370.59
1969	Safeway Steel, steel scaffolds (bleachers N Davis)	1,099.21
1969	Des Moines Steel Company (east backstop)	568.00
1969	12' x 14' shelter-Robert Kuehl Construction Co.	918.98
1977	Ames Fastpitch Association donated lighted score- board and permanent P. A. system	1,500.00 (estimated)

Facilities:

53	Picnic tables
9	Fireplaces
1	Softball diamond with lights
5	Little league diamonds
2	Storage & shelter sheds
1	Horseshoe court
2	Water Foundations
4	Sandboxes
48	8-foot benches
4	4-foot benches
1	Flag pole
2	Volleyball courts
1	Basketball court

Play Equipment:

2	Horse swings
1	Belt swing
2	Merry-go-rounds
2	Swinging gates
2	Slides

South Dakota Park

Located at South Dakota Avenue

11 acres

A number of people in the west end of Ames inquired about the possibility of an area set aside somewhere south of Lincolnway, where smaller children could play. Franklin Park was too far away and access was difficult. Investigation of the area found a possibility of twelve acres of land, owned by the St. Thomas Aquinas Church. The Commission approached Father Supple, and after several meetings with the Church Council, they agreed to lease this tract of land to the Park Commission as a small children's play and open area.

In September of 1969, a lease was acquired from the church. Children's play equipment was put in the northeast corner of the park and a few tables were placed in the park during the summer. The park serves primarily as an open area for such activities as flying kites, coasting, and other open air activities.

A Neighborhood Association was formed in 1976 to aid the Department of Parks and Recreation with public input into the development and design of this park. This group suggested a planting plan and equipment design layout which at the present time is being followed by the Department.

South River Valley

Located south of 13th Street

17.5 acres

This area was acquired with the assistance of the Bureau of Outdoor Recreation through the State Conservation Commission with a grant of \$12,100 being approximately half of the purchase price. In 1967 the Park Board purchased this land from Harold Fawcett. The total price paid for the land was \$24,200. This area is now identified as South River Valley.

During 1973, Mr. J. Palmas, Palmas Restaurant, donated a replica of a tugboat to be placed in the park for the purpose of providing a nautical play apparatus area.

Fall of 1974 brought the hiring of metal sculptor, Rick Polberg, to turn an on-site railroad tank car into a replica of a submarine.

Facilities:

- 4 Picnic Tables
- 2 Fireplaces
- 2 Softball Diamonds
- 12 8-foot benches
- 1 Tugboat
- 1 Submarine

Squaw Creek Park

Located South of the Highway Commission

12 acres

This was formerly the site of the Ames sewage treatment plant until the new one was established southeast of Ames. For a number of years this was essentially a dumping ground for trash and was allowed to grow up in brush and weeds. Early in 1959 the Park Commission approached the Ames City Council with the possibility of acquiring this tract of land for park purposes. As a result, title to the area was acquired. For several years the commission cleaned the area up to make it useable as a park.

Renovation Work:

1959	Merrick, Grading Squaw Creek	\$1,932.00
1963	C & M, Clearing Concrete foundations & structures	1,304.31
1966	C & M, clearing and grading	32.00
	-Finish grading & seeding	
	-Other bulldozing	400.00

Facilities:

2	Picnic tables
2	Fireplaces

Stuart N. Smith Park

Located on Elwood Drive between Lincolnway
and South Fourth Streets

34 acres

This is the newest park acquired in the Ames Park System. It was leased from I. S. U. on December 18, 1973. The park's landscape plan was done by Landscape Architect students at Iowa State University as a project.

The area has been seeded and I.S.U. students have planted 15 trees. The park is undeveloped and will be for light use to preserve the area in its natural state.

During 1976, the Ames Foundation provided a metal Welcome To Ames sign along with flag, flagpole, and appropriate lighting to illuminate the area.

TEAGARDEN PARK

Located at Teagarden Addition

1.0 acre

This area was donated to the Park Commission by Mr. Teagardin in October of 1967. The area had not been developed because of its low topography and that would have taken considerable filling. This is why he indicated a willingness to give the Park Commission the land as a small children's playground area.

In May of 1970, the park was closed by the City Sanitarian. This was due to problems of septic tank effluent flowing over the ground surface of part of the park. It was recommended that the park stay closed until such a time that the drainage problems could be corrected and so that several rains could wash the soil of pollutants which could have an influence on public health. The park was opened later in the year.

There have been problems of surface water drainage from the west since the septic tank problem.

Major Renovation Work:

1967	Payer and Vanderbur, Abstracting, preparing deed and examining title	\$151.00
1968	Play Equipment	782.00

Facilities:

1	Picnic table
1	Fireplace
2	Sandboxes

Play Equipment:

1	Horse swing
1	Slide
1	Swinging gate
1	Merry-go-round

Municipal Swimming Pool

536 signers in 1957 petitioned a vote on a city owned swimming pool, restricted to a \$250,000 expenditure. It was later submitted to a vote and failed.

On November 6, 1963, the citizens of Ames voted a \$375,000 bond issue for a municipal swimming pool to be constructed upon the site of the Ames High School. This pool was to be an indoor pool, housed in a separate building. A 63% majority passed vote for the pool.

Bids were taken twice and each time they exceeded the architects estimates for an indoor pool. On April 20, 1965, bids were heard again and came within the limits of the budgetted amount. Low bidders were Woodruff-Evans Construction Company, Fort Dodge, \$252,950 on general construction; Stroh Plumbing and Electric, Des Moines, \$88,660 on mechanical work; and \$15,649 on electrical work, with architect's fees and other costs added. The total construction was expected to cost about \$373,000. Groundbreaking for the pool was May 21, 1965.

The original date of completion for the swimming pool was June 1, 1966, but the pool didn't open until June 26 because of a strike of the plumbers and ironworkers. Mayor Donald R. Newbrough presided at open house at the swimming pool.

The pool, it was agreed, was to be used for school purposes during the day and open to the public during the other hours (after school). The City and School District arrived at an agreement whereby the City will furnish utility services to the pool and to the gymnasium and the school will furnish heat to both facilities. Maintenance costs are estimated to be paid approximately 2/3's by the school district and

1/3 by the City.

Pool Directors

Jean Redman	1956
Donna Vogt	1960-1961
Donna Davis	1964-1965
Richard Reynolds	1967-1966
Jerry Symons	1968-1971
Roy Fielding	1973-1975
Kim Krause	1975

Carr's Municipal Pool

This swimming area is approximately 8 acres of bottom land along the west side of the Skunk River Valley. It is located at the foot of Carr Drive. The Ames Parks and Recreation Department was permitted on the premises on September 1, 1972, to build and construct a sanitary sewer. The Carr Pool area was purchased December 31, 1976, for a total purchase price of \$68,270.00.

The pool had previously been privately owned by the Carr family. The Ames Park Commission had been studying and evaluating Carr's Pool since 1966 to find out if it was a worthwhile investment. The pool was built in 1926.

Operation and use of the pool did not begin until the spring of 1973.

In the summer of 1976 the 50th year of operation of this swimming facility was celebrated with an old-fashioned nickel-swim day on the 4th of July.

Many mechanical breakdowns occurred during the summer of 1976. The Ames Citizens Swimming Pool Committee, formed by the Ames Parks & Recreation Commission, studied this situation, as well as other swimming pool questions. Their recommendation was that the Carr's Municipal Swimming Pool be replaced or undergo a major overhaul, returning to an efficient mechanical operation meeting all state and local requirements. Action on this was taken during 1977.

In the summer of 1977 the Volunteer Swimming Pool Restoration group was formed headed by Mr. Bob Bergeson to bring into repair Carr's Pool and thus prolong the life and modernize the mechnaical, bathhouse, and pool areas. This work is scheduled to be completed in three parts by spring of 1978.

Country Club Pool

The Country Club Pool is approximately 12 years old. It is a 15 yard by 25 yard pool with a separate wading pool. The Ames Country Club owned the pool until it was sold to the Iowa State University Research Foundation (ISURF). In the summers of 1975 and 1976, the Parks & Recreation Commission leased the pool and lower portion of the old clubhouse from ISURF, offering it as a third summer public swimming pool. The purpose of this lease agreement was to make the swimming pool and locker room facilities at the Old Ames Golf & Country Club available to the City of Ames for public swimming programs and activities during the summer months.

Under the agreement with ISURF, the City will pay all costs arising out of swimming programs and activities conducted by the city at the pool during the term of the agreement. The city paid \$2,000 to the Foundation as rent for use of the pool and locker room facilities for the summer of 1976. Cost for summer of 1977 was \$2,500.00 for rental and approximately \$1,800.00 for utilities. The continuation of this lease agreement is planned for the summer of 1978.